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News Release

HPD's Newest K-9 Off to a Good Start

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The Harrisonburg Police Department's recent addition of a canine has proven to already be successful.

Canine Max started training with Officer Shawn Morris in late April. The pair endured an eight week K-9 school and Max is now certified with the Virginia Police Canine Association in narcotic detection and patrol work.

With a big reputation to fill, canine Max hit the streets in the beginning of June.

Since being out of training, Max has made numerous positive drug alerts and tracked individuals involved in various crimes.

Officer Morris started working in HPD's K-9 Unit in 2004 with canine Nikki. After suffering from minor health problems, Nikki was at retirement age, in canine years, and patrolled with HPD for the last time on April 2.

The HPD K-9 Unit is comprised of five canines; three German Shepards and two Belgian Malinois.

Note to the media: There will be an opportunity this afternoon to speak with Officer Morris and watch a K-9 demo. Please call as soon as possible to coordinate the time on this.

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